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May 6, 2002

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Serial No. 10/081,913  
(Attorney Docket No. H-204602)

Filed February 22, 2002

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Group 3752

NOZZLE ASSEMBLY FOR HVOF  
THERMAL SPRAY SYSTEM

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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington DC 20231

Prior to examination of the above-identified application, please enter the following amendment:

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace paragraph [0017] on page 4 with the following paragraph:

a1 [0017] The invention is particularly concerned with the construction and operation of the nozzle assembly 10. As shown best in Figures 2 and 3, the nozzle assembly 10 includes an inner tube 26 disposed about the axis A, an intermediate or middle tube 28 disposed concentrically about the inner tube 26, and an outer tube 30 disposed concentrically about the intermediate tube 28, such that the tubes 26, 28, 30 all share the common axis A.

Please replace paragraph [0030] on page 9 with the following paragraph:

a2 [0030] It is preferred that the air cap 24 be fitted to the outer tube 30 in such manner as to accommodate a flow of air into the combustion chamber to form a protective boundary layer of air against the walls of the chamber during operation. The boundary layer operates to cool